

## TRIBUTE TO ELFEBO BACA

**HON. BILL RICHARDSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 1995*

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken at great length about the cowards responsible for the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City. With all this talk about cowards, I thought it might be helpful to remind my colleagues that while our country is plagued with cowards from time to time, we have a rich history of heroes and famous sons and daughters. One such famous son is Elfego Baca who to this day—more than 110 years after his remarkable feat in New Mexico—is still remembered fondly by New Mexicans.

An encounter between Elfego Baca and some Texas cowboys in the fall of 1884 has to many in the New Mexico Hispanic community resulted in the elevation of Baca to heroic status.

Elfego Baca was born the youngest child to a family of Spanish ancestry in 1865. During his youth, he held a job as a clerk in a merchant's store in Socorro County, NM. Several years later in 1883, Baca experienced his first introduction to the legal side of law enforcement.

Socorro County was undergoing rapid economic growth with the development of the Santa Fe Railroad. This expansion brought new faces to the area—laborers, miners, and ranchers to name a few. Many of the Texan newcomers held the local native community in low esteem. These cattlemen would often ride inebriated through town while shooting their guns. Obviously this posed a dangerous problem to the safety of the community so Sheriff Simpson called on Baca to help chase the cowboys out of town. Consequently, Elfego was appointed deputy sheriff for Socorro County.

It is still a mystery why Baca travelled to San Francisco Plaza in October 1884, but his confrontation with some Texas cowboys is what made him a legend. Shortly after arriving, deputy Baca encountered Charles McCarthy who was firing his pistol in a local saloon. Baca quickly took control and brought McCarthy to the justice of peace. McCarthy paid a fine and was released, but again repeated his lawless actions and was again arrested by Baca. McCarthy had fired his gun directly at Baca, so the deputy decided to guard the drunk prisoner in a private house in town. This enraged the other Texas cowboys and created an enormously tense scenario between them and deputy Baca. That night, a mob of stockmen threatened Baca for the release of McCarthy, but the deputy declined and held off their advances. It finally came to a head when Baca fired shots to disperse the mob and shot a horse which one of the cowboy's was riding, pinning the rider and crushing him to death.

The cattlemen used the following day to muster up their forces in retaliation of their comrade's death. Baca meanwhile hid in a small shack just outside town. When the cowboys finally tried to storm the house, Baca fired at the intruders, hitting one man in the chest and killing him. The infuriated gang of Texas cowboys that had congregated outside

returned fire at the house but were unable to dislodge Baca from his fortification.

Finally after nearly a day of hiding out, the justice of peace issued an arrest warrant for Deputy Sheriff Baca. Baca surrendered under the condition that his life be spared from the cowboy mob and that he receive a fair trial in Bernalillo County with an Hispanic jury. Baca was acquitted under the grounds of self-defense.

The story of Elfego Baca demonstrates a man's will to preserve justice in a land and time of rampant corruption and bullying. Baca's bravery instilled hope to the native New Mexican people who upheld the laws of the land and refused to succumb to racial injustices.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Elfego Baca and the countless numbers of other American heroes and famous sons and daughters who have helped make this country great.

## TRIBUTE TO THE BERNIE V. GUTHRIE SQUADRON

**HON. TIM JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 1995*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bernie V. Guthrie Squadron, a charter member of the Arnold Air Society, located on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. The Guthrie Squadron was established in 1951, and named in honor of Capt. Bernie V. Guthrie, an Air Force pilot who was shot down over Hamm, Germany during World War II.

Since its establishment, the Bernie V. Guthrie Squadron has had an outstanding record of accomplishment and community service. The squadron instituted an annual veterans vigil, which began as a local project in the late 1980's and was expanded into a permanent nationwide project in 1991. In addition, the Guthrie Squadron sold POW/MIA bracelets at South Dakota State University to increase student awareness of POW/MIA issues, and instituted a POW/MIA name tracing project which included all area squadrons.

The Guthrie Squadron has also served the community and the State by organizing blood drives, participating in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, and working with handicapped children and adults. It has received numerous honors, including the Outstanding Squadron of 1992, the Outstanding State Service Award, and the Jaycees Community Service Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of the Bernie V. Guthrie Squadron, and to encourage the squadron to continue its long and proud tradition of service in South Dakota.

## HONORING THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 1995*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons

Lodge No. 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 87th anniversary and 50-year-member banquet.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the beautifully renovated Croatian Center in Merrillville, IN. Traditionally, the anniversary ceremony includes a recognition of those members who have achieved 50 years of membership. Honorees who have pledged their allegiance include: Vincent Brebrich, Bessie Briski, Marko Buncich, Edward Carija, John William Carr, Vera Depa, Julia Farrenkopf, Rose Marie Franz, Helen Griffin, Peter Hecimovich, Mildred Kennedy, Helen Lucas, John Mezmarick, Lubi Paligraf, Steve Paulich, Violet Plummer, Delores Roppolo, John Simunic, Frank Sostaric, Ann Stankovic, Marie Vucich, Anna Wilson, and Peter Yukich.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with a total of 256 additional lodge members who have attained this status.

This memorable day begins with Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, IN, officiated by the Reverend Father Benedict Benakovich. Croatian Fraternal Union national president, Bernard Luketich, will be this year's distinguished guest speaker. Festivities will be enriched by the music of the Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," directed by Brother Dennis Barunica and by the Hoosier Hrvati Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, directed by Ed Sindich. In addition, the Croatian Junior Tamburitza's will perform under the direction of Dennis Barunica.

I am proud to commend lodge president, Elizabeth Morgavan, as well as every member of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge No. 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

## CONGRATULATIONS ADAMSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. ED BRYANT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 1995*

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Adamsville High School Cardinals for the outstanding 1994-95 basketball season they enjoyed.

It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to one of the outstanding high schools in the State of Tennessee, and at this time, to specially recognize their runner-up status in the Tennessee State Basketball Tournament in Mufreesboro, TN.

Head Coach Greg Martin, in his first year in that capacity, directed the team, with the able assistance of Assistant Coach Rick Coffman. Coach Martin won the District 15A Coach of the Year Award for his outstanding effort.

At a time when some question the commitment and work ethic of our youth, those 15 young men dispelled that myth with their team efforts. Led by All-State Tournament Team member Matt Hoover, the Cardinals also included Michael Cleary, Tony Engle, Jon Luna, Casey Meek, B.J. Sherron, Chad Wyatt, Tracy